

Statement by Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) on investigation of employees' media contacts:

U.S. Army CID and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) maintains records of felony- level criminal investigations. As part of the investigative process, we have a duty and obligation under the law to safeguard all sensitive, classified, and Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

That obligation extends to all involved to include witnesses, victims and suspects.

Special Agents from the U.S. Army CID Standards of Conduct Office (SOCO) were recently directed to conduct an investigation into violations of the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552), the violations of several Department of the Army and Department of Defense regulations, and the improper access of our investigative data bases for unofficial or personal use at the USACIL. This was not a "leak investigation" as you have phrased it, nor an investigation into any one individual, but an investigation into the improper access of our databases and violations of the Privacy Act, etc. The investigation was not the result of anyone reporting it to us or "whistleblowing" as you have queried, but our obligation and duty under the law to fully investigate violations of the law and regulations as I have outlined above.

The investigation was opened after receiving questions from you as a representative of McClatchy Newspapers that possibly included PII and Law Enforcement Sensitive information. As I wrote you in my email response on October 18, 2011, *"It would be inappropriate for the USACIL to comment on possible ongoing cases or investigations. Nor can the USACIL participate in potential violations of the Privacy Act."*

Since 2005, SOCO has investigated allegations of more than two dozen cases of possible Privacy Act violations and will continue to investigate instances where there is credible information that a possible crime or violation has occurred.